Mortar Ballistic Computer (MBC)

Description

The MBC will replace the M16 and M19 Plotting Boards as the primary means of computing fire control data for infantry 60mm and 81mm mortar units. It provides faster, more accurate computation of firing data under all combat and training conditions. The MBC system increases combat power using existing Marine Corps force structure.

As an incremental acquisition, the initial system will be a manually operated MBC able to compute technical mortar firing data. Eventually, the complete system will be a digitally fed MBC linked to the Marine Corps fire support command and control system via the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) for enhanced fire support coordination, situational awareness, and command and control capabilities.

The MBC will integrate a Global Positioning System (GPS), Combat Net Radio and Tactical Data Systems, and will be interoperable with currently fielded and future mortar simulation systems. The MBC will implement software functionally compatible with currently fielded and future versions of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Command, Control, Communications, computers and Intelligence and Information (C4I2) System Software Baseline.

Operational Impact

The MBC will revolutionize mortar operations by improving the speed, precision, and accuracy of mortar gunnery. Additionally, it will provide digital connectivity, integrating mortar fire into automated fire support planning and execution. Unlike current manual gunnery, this automated system will incorporate all five elements of accurate predicted fires and will provide responsive, accurate gunnery solutions enhancing lethality and support to maneuver elements.

Program Status

The MBC Program was reinitiated at MS 0. An accelerated acquisition and/or a combined MS I-II are anticipated.

Procurement Profile:

	FY01	FY02
Quantity:	0	0

Developer/Manufacturer

An informal market investigation has identified the following as potential sources:

❏ California Microwave (Northrop Grumman)
❏ DME Corporation
❏ THE-UCS
❏ Litton Data Systems
❏ Megabyte International Corporation
❏ Sterling Software
❏ Zengrange Defense Systems